

### 2014 C.A.S.T. for Kids/Let's Move Outside at Navajo Lake State Park



By Robert Stump and Dave Gates  
Four Corners Construction Office

New Mexico State Parks hosted an annual “Catch a Special Thrill” (C.A.S.T.) for Kids Foundation event this May 10, 2014 at Navajo Lake State Park in New Mexico – its 17th event for this location.

C.A.S.T. creates a special environment of fishing and outdoor experience for disabled and disadvantaged children and developmentally-impaired adults. C.A.S.T. events began in 1991 in eastern Washington championed by former Reclamation Commissioner John W. Keys III.



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The Bureau of Reclamation continues to count among the many sponsors for these events as part of the Department of Interior's administration of Let's Move Outside! launched by First Lady Michelle Obama in 2010. The BLM, Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife and Halliburton co-sponsored the event.

Robert Stump of the Four Corners Construction Office volunteered his time and served as event photographer this year. Navajo Lake State Park Administrator Cheryl Moline chaired today's event for her second year.

Today's event saw 63 children participating! Over 74 volunteers donated their time and 15 boat captains donated their time, boats and fuel. Although boats were in short order, the dedicated volunteers made sure all participants had opportunity for a boat ride. Black Hawk Energy Services and Halliburton provided dinner the night before and lunch during the event.

Cooler temperatures and precipitation over the previous days reportedly drove the fish deep with little interest in feeding. A couple boats came in with a Northern Pike. Carp entertained a couple bites near the marina. The Crappie game fish that usually provide the greatest entertainment remained elusive, however.

The fishing was tough, but these kids are good at finding positive things in life when the going gets tough. Fish or no fish, they took it in stride and enjoyed the many other aspects of the event and the very pleasant day. They inspired volunteers with their positive outlook despite the rather unsuccessful fishing.

The San Juan County Sheriff's Department showed off their helicopter and transported participants to lunch in their cruisers. The Farmington ROTC provided muscle and assured the event ran smoothly. Costume characters like Scruff McGruff and the Heart also made an appearance.

It's not just about catching fish – it's about the foundation's namesake: "catching a special thrill." The kids came out of the event with smiling faces, fishing equipment, plaques with their photos, hats, t-shirts, goodies and stories to tell. The volunteers also caught a special thrill, providing a memorable, safe experience for these special kids while promoting Let's Move Outside!

**Photos below**



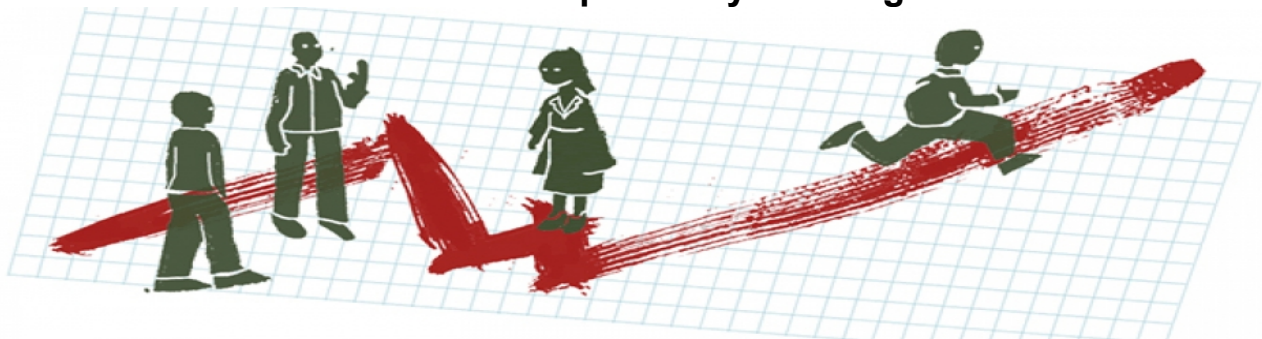
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## 40-Hour Supervisory Training



By Will Phillips  
Human Resources Specialists  
Upper Colorado Region



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The Upper Colorado Region held its first 40-hour supervisory training from May 5<sup>th</sup> through May 9<sup>th</sup>. Participants attended from around the region and had the opportunity to be trained in various aspects of Human Resources. The goal of the course was to provide both new supervisors, as well as seasoned veterans, with some of the tools that can help to make the job a little easier to tackle.

Feedback from the participants included:

*I think the variety of information covered and pace of the course were great to keep interest and attention. This is great for new supervisors and a refresher course for all others.*

*There were really good presentations that applied directly to our work.*

*The training kept my attention throughout the entire week, with the different topics and presenters.*

*This is an excellent training for both starting supervisors/managers and as a refresher course. I feel that it gave me the necessary tools to succeed.*

*This was a great class! Very valuable for my development!*

*Wonderful! This should be a mandatory course for all supervisors. The best training I have had in my 20+ years as a government employee.*

*The subjects that were taught are immediately applicable in the work environment. I enjoyed the variety of presentation methods and the guest speakers kept the group engaged during their presentations.*

*It was excellent. I would recommend this course to any supervisor/manager!*

*The whole week was awesome! It was very applicable to everything I am responsible for.*

Another course is already being scheduled for about the same timeframe next year, probably around the first full week of May, 2015. We hope to have the chance to share some of these experiences with all supervisors and managers.

Remember that many of the trainings that were presented are also available to be brought out to your field/area office or division as a topic for your team to be trained on. Feel free to contact Dick Jorgenson at 801-524-3678 or Will Phillips at 801-524-3721 if you would like to see about scheduling one of those trainings.

Thanks to all those who participated.

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## **WCAO Participates in Water Festival**



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By Justyn Hock  
Public Affairs Specialist  
Western Colorado Area Office

On May 19 and 20, 2014 the Western Colorado Area Office participated in the 2014 Children's Water Festival for fifth graders in Mesa and Delta Counties. Attendees of the festival arrived at Colorado Mesa University in the morning by bus and participated in water related classes and activities.

Reclamation teaches two classes. In one class, the Water Rights Game, the kids learn about senior and junior water rights and the effects of water right priorities on all water users. The second class is the Colorado River Journey, in which the kids learn about Colorado River water diversions, water sources, and water quality.

Reclamation also has two exhibits in the Exhibit Hall, one on water measurement and one on the Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program.

Nearly 2,500 kids attended the festival accompanied by their teachers and some parents. The day was fun and educational and the kids look forward to this all year long! Thank you to the Western Colorado Area Office Employees who helped this year: Steve Coverly, Josh Dunham, Dee Dee Fowler, Allen Giger, Justyn Hock, Kevin Moran, Bob Norman, and John Sottolare. An extra "thank you" goes to retired Western Colorado Area Employees Mike Baker, Dan Crabtree, Ram Dhan Khalsa, and Steve McCall who love the Water Festival so much they volunteered their time!

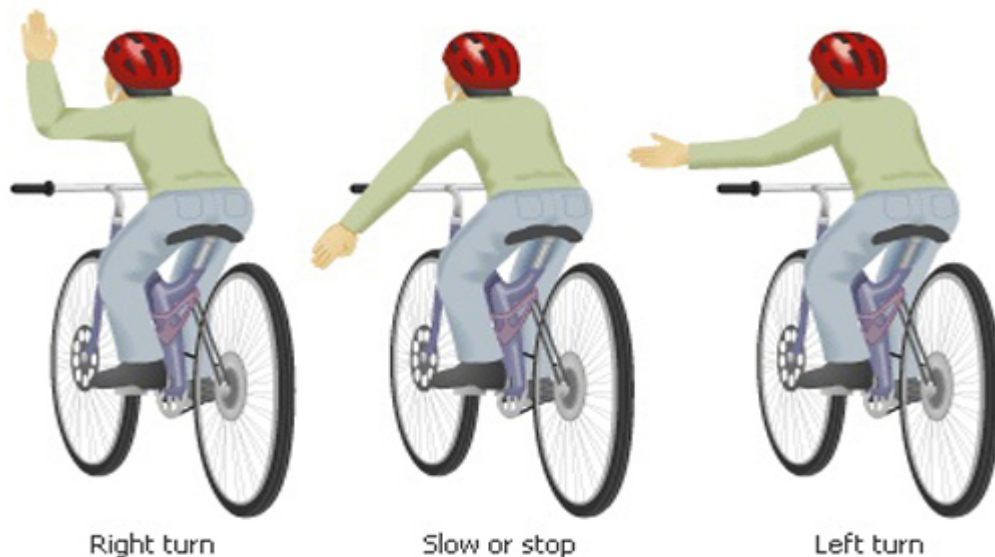
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## **"Rules of the Road" for a Safe and Fun Bike Riding and Commuting**



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- **FOLLOW THE LAW**

Your safety and image of bicyclists depend on you. You have the same rights and duties as drivers. Obey traffic signals and stop signs. Ride with traffic; use the rightmost lane headed in the direction you are going.

- **BE PREDICTABLE**

Make your intentions clear to everyone on the road. Ride in a straight line and don't swerve between parked cars. Signal turns, and check behind you well before turning or changing lanes.

- **BE CONSPICUOUS**

Ride where people can see you and wear bright clothing. Use a front white light, red rear light and reflectors when visibility is poor. Make eye contact with others and don't ride on sidewalks.

- **THINK AHEAD**

Anticipate what drivers, pedestrians, and other people on bikes will do next. Watch for turning vehicles and ride outside the door zone of parked cars. Look out for debris, potholes, and other road hazards. Cross railroad tracks at right angles.

- **RIDE READY**

Check that your tires have sufficient air, brakes are working, chain runs smoothly, and quick release levers are closed. Carry tools and supplies that are appropriate for your ride. Wear a helmet.

For additional information check the following link for [video on Bicycle Safety](#)

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## **The Care or Operation of Government Motor Vehicles**



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- Operators are to check and add the vehicle's gas, oil, battery fluid, and coolant when needed, and check and inflate the air pressure in the tires while in travel status
- Vehicle users/managers must maintain all motor vehicles in a safe, operable, and clean condition at all times.
- Motor vehicle occupants must wear safety belts while the vehicle is moving.
- Motor vehicle operators must comply with all State and local laws governing the use of cellular telephones and similar devices while operating a vehicle. Hands-free cellular devices may be used when permitted by law. Use of cellular telephones and/or similar devices not equipped for hands free operation is prohibited while operating a DOI provided vehicle.
- The use of tobacco products, including smokeless tobacco, narcotics, or other pathogenic drugs is prohibited in a DOI-provided vehicle.
- Operators must lock unattended vehicles. Safeguard the charge card and keys, and remove the charge card from the vehicle when it is unattended. This is also required when the vehicle is left at a commercial facility for service, inspection, or repairs.
- Operators must immediately report the theft of a vehicle, its contents, and/or lost or stolen charge cards, tags and/or keys to:
  - (1) The employee's supervisor;
  - (2) The local law enforcement agency;
  - (3) The FMC when it is a GSA-leased vehicle;



(4) The Federal Protective Service when it is a DOI-owned vehicle, and/or when the theft of a leased or rental vehicle occurs on Federal property

- Store and park all motor vehicles at locations that provide protection from pilferage or damage.
- Officials or employees failing to take proper care of a vehicle may be refused further authorization to use vehicles.

#### [114S-38.301-70 Official Use of Government-Owned or -Leased Motor Vehicles](#)

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### Retirement Readiness: How Do You Stack Up?



By [Tammy Flanagan](#) National Institute of Transition Planning  
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Last week marked the debut of our [Retirement Readiness Assessment](#), a new tool aimed at helping federal managers and employees get a better handle on where they are in the retirement planning process.

The assessment poses a series of questions on topics ranging from the Thrift Savings Plan to paperwork issues and Social Security. It then issues a rating of the taker's retirement readiness.

Since we launched the tool, more than 10,000 people have taken the assessment in either its desktop or mobile version. Now the preliminary results are in. Here's how those who have completed the assessment stack up:

- **Just Getting Started** (those needing some help understanding the basics of benefits available to them): 4 percent



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- **Beyond the Beginning** (those who have started to do their homework, but need some additional guidance): 18 percent
- **On Your Way** (those who are on a path to a secure retirement, and just need to take some key steps before they leave): 38 percent
- **Retirement Ready** (those who have their ducks in a row and just need to set a date): 40 percent

The early returns show that a significant percentage of the initial assessment takers are paying attention to their financial future (hopefully in part by reading this column regularly) and are in the process of setting themselves up for a secure retirement. If those results hold up over time, that's good news.

Where do you stand? If you haven't [taken the assessment](#) yet, now's your chance.

### [Take the Retirement Readiness Assessment](#)

By Tammy Flanagan

<http://www.govexec.com/pay-benefits/retirement-planning/2013/08/mystery-vanishing-service-credit/67946/>

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## Oral History Spotlight

The UC Regional Library has a collection of 110 oral history interviews conducted by Historians, with various Reclamation employees throughout the years. The oral histories capture candid “in their own voice” memories of employees and their experiences working for Reclamation. The oral histories preserve information about Reclamation that would not normally appear in Reclamation’s official records. Contents of the oral histories range from the humorous to reflective of the situation at the time, and all are informative!



**Oral History Interview**  
**Felix W. Cook Sr.**

Director, Technical Service Center

Mr. Cook started work at the Bureau of Reclamation in 1962, and entered the rotation engineer program, only to be drafted into the army in 1963. He would return to Reclamation in 1965 and



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retired as Director on the Technical Service Center in 1999. What follows are excerpts from Mr. Cook's oral history book:

### **Joined Reclamation in January of 1962**

And so that's how I came to work with the Bureau of Reclamation. That was in January of '62. I remember it very clearly, because I maybe didn't say this earlier, but I grew up on a farm, and the only time I ever went to the city was in my father's truck, very infrequent, maybe once a year to buy school clothing. So I wasn't familiar with the busing system at all. And so when I came here, I was staying with someone over here on York Street in Denver. They told me how to catch the bus. I caught the bus, came out to the Federal Center—never forget, it was snowing that day—and spent most of the day in personnel, signing papers and things of that nature. And going back, it was a heck of a time because I kept passing the street I was supposed to get off on. I was riding, riding, and riding. I went to ask the bus driver, "Have I passed York Street?" and he said, "Oh, yeah, we passed that about a mile down the road. I'll give you a transfer. You get on this bus here, and it'll take you back to that street there." Well, I got on that bus, and sure enough, missed York Street again and I was heading in the opposite direction. I went to the bus driver and said, "Have we passed York Street?" "Yeah, we already passed York Street." So I think it was something like eight thirty, nine o'clock when I got home that night. I had been spending a lot of time riding the bus, so that was one of my first experiences when I got here.

**“ . . . my Professional Engineer license probably was one of the happiest occasions, one of the most successful events in my whole career. It meant a lot to me. . . .”**

Well, that's interesting you might ask that, because I've often thought about some of the most happy moments, the most successful things I've accomplished in my career, and I would say obtaining my Professional Engineer license probably was one of the most happy occasions, one of the most successful events in my whole career. It meant a lot to me.

**“ . . . it says that you have just gone a step further to prove your competency, ability to do engineering. . . . Having come from the one-room schoolhouse . . . and Southern University, I guess I wanted to make sure that I could compete, so to speak, with the big boys out there”**

It is basically, what it says, that you have just gone a step further to prove your competency, ability to do engineering. I guess it's almost like a lawyer without passing the bar, the same equivalency—a doctor without having passed the board. It has that kind of connotation. And having come from the one-room schoolhouse we talked about, and Southern University, I guess I wanted to make sure that I could compete, so to speak, with the big boys out there too, that I could pass this here examination.

And it was a tremendous challenge I gave to myself, because I was taking it with people who had went to CU [Colorado University], DU, CSU [Colorado State University], Notre Dame and all these big-time schools here. We all were taking the same



examination. So it meant a lot to me to be able to prove that I had the technical background to pass the examination. And maybe you're not aware; I went on to become appointed to the [Colorado] Board [of Registration for Professional Engineers, and Professional Land Surveyors]. I was the first federal engineer ever appointed to the state board, and I was appointed by Governor [Richard (Dick)] Lamm, and then was reappointed by Governor [Roy] Romer, so I served eight years on the State Board and was Chairman of the Board for two of those years. I think it was '79-'81, I believe, that I was Chairman of the Board.

**“ . . . I've always liked working with people. I've always thought that I was fairly sensitive to people's needs. So I thought that I had both technical skill as well as managerial skills. And so I guess if I had my choice, even if there had been a technical route, and a supervisor route, I probably would have taken the supervisory route....”**

So you ask me why . . . I've always liked working with people. I've always thought that I was fairly sensitive to people's needs. So I thought that I had both technical skill as well as managerial skills. And so I guess if I had my choice, even if there had been a technical route, and a supervisor route, I probably would have taken the supervisory route, as opposed to the pure technical route. Some days, I wonder (chuckles) if that was the smart thing to do. But no, I enjoy working with people, and I think I'm probably effective with working with people. So that's why.

To read the full interview [Felix W. Cook Sr. click here](#), or if you prefer a hard copy contact [Chantel Bouchard](#), Regional Office Library Coordinator.

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84-58000  
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May 21, 2014

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

#### MEMORANDUM

To: All Bureau of Reclamation Employees

From: Joshua Fowler /s/  
Manager, Human Resources Division

Subject: Employee Express Goes Mobile

The Department of the Interior, Interior Business Center (IBC) and Employee Express (EEX) have a mobile-friendly version of the Leave and Earnings Statement (LES). It primarily displays an employee's net pay and leave. To access it you must log in with your EEX User ID/Password.

It is available at [www.employeeexpress.gov/mobile/mobilelogin.aspx](http://www.employeeexpress.gov/mobile/mobilelogin.aspx) or compatible phones may scan a Quick Response (QR) code. This will display the current LES with individual summaries of Pay,



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Earnings, Deductions, and Leave. There is also a link to the full website which will open in your phone's browser. Please see the attached EEX flyer for details.

If you receive a popup blocker when you are logging in to EEX, you may need to ensure the popup blocker is turned "off".

All employees should have an EEX account. If you forgot your login ID or password, you can reset your account at the EEX Web site: <https://www.employeeexpress.gov>.

If you have any questions, you may contact your servicing human resources office or you may contact the IBC helpdesk at 1-888-367-1622. You may also call the EEX helpdesk toll free at 1-888-353-9450, Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Eastern time, or via e-mail at [EEXHELP@opm.gov](mailto:EEXHELP@opm.gov).

**Safeguard Information:** Employees are reminded to take due care when storing and/or transmitting sensitive data that contains Personal Identifying Information (PII). This information should be encrypted when electronically stored and/or transmitted, as prescribed by the Department of the Interior Information Technology (IT) Security Policy Handbook. Reclamation can provide encryption tools to help employees protect PII and other sensitive information. Proper encryption can fully protect information from unauthorized access. Reclamation employees must use encryption when transmitting PII and other sensitive information via e-mail to addresses outside to the Department. Transmission of unencrypted PII will result in a security violation. For help with encryption, please contact your local IT support desk or the Reclamation Enterprise Service Center (RESC), [RESC@usbr.gov](mailto:RESC@usbr.gov), 303-445-3357.

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## In Transition

### Former UC Region Employee Jerry Miller

Jerry Miller has had several tragic events occur in his life lately. His son-in-law passed away about 3 weeks ago, his mother passed away about 2 weeks ago, and his son, Jeremiah, 24 years old, passed away last Saturday from injuries from a motorcycle accident. The funeral for Jeremiah will be held this Friday in Hooper. For more details please contact Kib Jacobson in the Regional Office.

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## Asian Pacific Presentation at the Regional Office



Deputy Regional Director Ann Gold, Professor Haruko Mariyasu, Deputy Regional Director Brent Rhees

Professor Haruko Mariyasu of the University of Utah came to the Upper Colorado Regional office to provide the employees a well-received lesson on Asian studies to help commemorate Asian American Pacific Islander Month. Professor Mariyasu has been an educator for over 50 years and was generous to give her time to educate Reclamation employees on Asian history, culture and various contributions to American society. Her goal is to not only recognize individuals of Asian descent, but to encourage everyone to embrace the unique origins of all cultures.

### Photos below



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# What Is the Media Saying About Reclamation This Week?

[New Mexico lawmakers sue over water settlement](#)

[Powell could 'call' on reservoirs](#)

[Lawmakers, farmer sue over water settlement](#)

[Navajo water deal nears boiling point](#)

[Minnows spawning](#)

[Boosting Rio Grande flows results in spawning by endangered silvery minnow](#)

[Reclamation Video News Clips – May 15](#)

[Rifle water rights supply in good shape](#)

[Extra water helps minnows spawn](#)

[Reclamation awards \\$13.8 million contract for guard services at Glen Canyon Dam](#)

[Udall and Bennet request plan for Lake Nighthorse](#)

[Rio Grande minnows spawn thanks to extra flows](#)

[11 Cool Lake Powell Facts](#)

[Splitting the Rio Grande: Colorado farmers, New Mexico raft guides clash over flows](#)

[Colorado River Reunites With Sea](#)

[A river reunited: The Colorado River reaches the sea](#)

[Colorado River the Course in Canyonlands During the National Park's 50th Anniversary](#)

[Officials concede defeat at Lake Powell seek to contain invasive mussels](#)

[Colorado River Connects With Gulf of California for the First Time in 16 Years as Part of New Project](#)

[Lake Powell Half Empty](#)

[SNOTEL shows levels near average](#)

[A River Kind Of Runs Through It:](#)

[Irrigation season to begin in southern New Mexico](#)

[Reclamation Video News Clips - May 22](#)

[Parks and Rec wrong for Lake Nighthorse](#)

[Fight Over Water for Weed, Party Over Hemp and More](#)

[Colorado River returns to the sea in 'sacred reunion' of waters](#)

[What More Than a Decade of Drought Has Done to Lake Powell](#)

[Colorado River Meets the Sea After 16 Years](#)

[Aspen Times Weekly: A lesson for the American West about](#)

[water](#)

[Irrigation season to begin in southern New Mexico](#)

[Irrigation Season To Begin In Southern N.M.](#)

[Denver pipes will allow Colorado Springs water to flow](#)

[Public meeting planned on Lake Nighthorse](#)

[Pundits: Something must be done! \(Except when it mustn't.\)](#)

[Farmers to get more water this season](#)

[Colorado Submits Management Plan for Rifle Gap Reservoir](#)

[Arizona to Boaters: "Clean, Drain and Dry"](#)

[LV Clear Of Federal Pot Water Directive](#)

[What 14 Years of Drought Looks Like](#)

[Drought Could Hault Power Generation at Lake Powell](#)

[Satellite imagery shows drought-ridden Lake Powell at half capacity](#)

[Quagga Mussel Containment Strategy](#)

[Colorado River basin eligible for conservation grants](#)

[Grand County flood advisory is extended in Grand County to Thursday](#)

[Water flowing in the Rio Grande in Doña Ana County](#)

[Colorado water plan under discussion](#)

[The Unsung Heroes of the Colorado River Delta Pulse Flow](#)

[Oil spill contaminates Green River](#)

[Senator held roundtable to evaluate state of water supply in Central NM](#)

[AG King: Feds trying to siphon New Mexico groundwater for Texas](#)

[Rains helped, but NM still in drought](#)

[That's a wrap](#)

[Mayor: 4 inches of rain dump on Rio Grande City in one hour](#)

[Utah Oil Spill Cleanup Continues After BLM's False Claims of Containment](#)

## [Return to UC Today](#)



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